

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02857 100736Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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O R 071331Z MAR 78 ZDK DUE TO VARIOUS REQUESTS AND SVCS
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6960
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2799
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SLALAMM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LAGOS 2857

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : PDEV, RH, NI
SUBJ : FMG COMMENTS ON INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FMG STATEMENT CONDEMNING
INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS IT APPEARED IN NEW NIGEIRIAN MARCH 7.

2. QUOTE. THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN
VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE SO-CALLED "INTERNAL SETTLE-
MENT" RECENTLY CONCLUDED BETWEEN IAN SMITH, LEADER OF
THE REBEL WHITE MINORITY REGIME IN RHODESIA, BISHOP
ABEL MUZOREWA OF THE UANC, THE REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 02857 100736Z

OF THE ANC AND CHIEF CHIRAU OF ZUPO, AND WISHES HEREBY
TO STATE NIGERIA'S CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL REJECTION OF
THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

IN REITERATING ITS WELL-KNOWN POSITION, THE NIGERIAN
GOVERNMENT HAS EXHAUSTIVELY CONSIDERED THE OBVIOUS
ABSURDITY IN CONCLUDING A SO-CALLED SETTLEMENT WITH THESE

INTERNAL FACTIONS OF THE BLACK SIMBABWEAN LEADERSHIP, TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS AND THEIR CADRES WHO SACRIFICES IN SWEAT AND BLOOD ON THE BATTLE FIELD HAVE FINALLY PERSUADED SMITH TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, A FACT DULY RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU, AND TO WHICH NIGERIA HAS FULLY SUBSCRIBED.

FURTHERMORE, THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE PRESENT SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE AN OPEN INVITATION TO A FRATRICIDAL CIVIL WAR IN ZIMBABWE, THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF WHICH WOULD BE TO FURTHER DELAY ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE.

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT PERTINENT TO RECALL AT THIS STAGE THAT NIGERIA AGREED WITH SPECIFIC CONDITIONS TO GIVE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA A CHANCE, MAINLY ON ACCOUNT OF SOME (THOUGH SIGNIFICANT) POSITIVE IDEAS WHICH THEY CONTAINED, SUCH AS DOMECRATIC ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE, THE REALIZATION THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MUST FORM THE BASIS OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWEAN ARMY; AND THE CLEAR, CATEGRICAL AND UNAMBIGUOUS ASSURANCE THAT IAN SMITH WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED.

IN CONSIDERATION FOR THESE POSITIVE FACTORS IN THE
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 02857 100736Z

PROPOSALS, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE REST AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AT THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT. GOVERNMENT VIEWS IT WITH THE DEEPEST CONCERN, THEREFORE, AND AS A MATTER FOR REGRET, THAT THE VERY AUTHORS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS SHOULD NOW APPEAR IN SUCH AN AMBIVALENT ROLE THAT LEAVES A STRONG IMPRESSION OF GIVING THEIR SYMPATHY IF NOT BLESSING TO THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY CONVINCED THAT THE CURIOUS AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH THE REBEL REGIME IN RHODESIA, WHICH SEEM TO ACCORD A 28 PERCENT BLOCKING VOTE TO ONE QUARTER OF A MILLION WHITE SETTLERS IN A POPULATION OF WELL OVER SIX MILLION, ARE TANTAMOUNT TO A SELL-OUT OF THE BLACK ZIMBABWEAS' INTERESTS.

NIGERIA WILL NOT BE PARTY TO SUCH A SELL-OUT OF AFRICAN INTERESTS, AND THEREFORE CALLS FOR A RETURN TO THE PATH OF SANITY TO GUARANTEE THE ATTAINMENT OF TRUE FREEDOM BY ZIMBABWE THIS YEAR. GOVERNMENT ALSO SUPPORTS THE CALL BY THE AFRICA GROUP AT THE UN FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THIS

UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT IN SEARCH FOR A JUST SETTLEMENT
OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PROBLEM.

SIMILARLY, GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT THE CONDEMNATION
OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BY THE WORLD BODY AND THE
IMMEDIATE CALLING OF A FULL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, AND THE
WHOLE BASIS OF WHICH WOULD BE THE EXISTING ANGLO-
AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND POSITIVE AGREEMENTS ALREADY
REACHED AT THE MALTA TALKS.
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.
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PAGE 04 LAGOS 02857 100736Z

UNCLASSIFIED

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